

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 9 February 27, 2025

National actions hit Trump's cuts

By Philadelphia Workers
World bureau

Braving 10-degree wind chills, an estimated 250 people gathered outside Pennsylvania Senator David McCormick's Center City office in Philadelphia at noon on Feb. 19. The spirited rally protesting Donald Trump's proposed federal funding cuts was part of a multicity "National Day of Action."

The demonstration was called by Labor for Higher Education, a coalition of unions representing workers in higher education and students across the U.S.

A primary concern was Trump's proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health, which funds hundreds of millions of dollars in research at universities in Pennsylvania. The cuts are currently blocked by court order, but if they do go through it could mean the loss of revenue for critical research in medicine, technology, environmental sustainability, education and health sciences. Penn State's research work could lose around \$35 million in NIH grants and the University of Pennsylvania as much as \$250 million.

Federal layoffs hit Philadelphia

Later in the day, around 150 federal workers and supporters gathered by the

Liberty Bell in Philadelphia's Independence Mall to denounce the sudden layoffs across multiple government agencies promoted by Trump and his hatchet man, billionaire Elon Musk. The rally was called by the American Federation of Government Employees Council 238 which represents around 9,400 federal workers in the Philadelphia area.

Two probationary workers at the National Historical Park received termination notices over the weekend, despite understaffing with at least 30 unfilled openings. Other sudden job cuts hit probationary workers at the General Services Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of Energy and the Internal Revenue Service. Despite the recent increase in airplane crashes, layoffs also hit the Federal Aviation Administration which was already understaffed.

Signs denouncing Trump and Musk dotted the crowd and chants called on participants to organize and fight back!



AFGE protest outside the Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, Feb. 19, 2025.

WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE



Over 150 demonstrators protest Trump's attacks on the USPS. WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY
Portland, Oregon, Feb. 23, 2025.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous

youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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New York prison guard strike

Which side are we on?

It is generally a good class impulse to solidarize with workers on strike. With capital on one side and labor on the other, workers are usually striking to get a bigger portion of the wealth that they alone created. Which side are you on? We're on the workers' side.

But that is not, and should not be, an automatic response in every single strike. For example, there were racist "hate strikes" in auto plants in the 1940s against Black workers being promoted to assembly line jobs. The United Auto Workers union refused to defend those workers when they were fired.

In 1968, the United Federation of Teachers held a citywide strike in New York City that was opposed to Black control of schools in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn. Workers World Party and its youth organization at the time, Youth Against War and Fascism, denounced the strike as racist.

Workers World has never supported strikes of police, prison guards or border guards, because they are not part of the working class but serve as an essential component of the repressive capitalist state apparatus. Their "job" is to protect property and enforce the white supremacist, xenophobic, misogynist, transphobic, anti-LGBTQIA2S+ and ableist status quo. Oppressed communities consider official police to be an armed force occupying their neighborhoods.

Which side are we on? We're on the side of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Donald Brooks and countless known and unknown casualties — overwhelmingly poor, working class and of color — of cop and prison guard brutality.

The police and guard organizations — misnamed "unions" — are on the other side. These organizations represent the racist killers in grievance hearings and help them evade even the slightest disciplinary action.

Groups like the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Benevolent Association should not be affiliates of the AFL-CIO. Unions such as the American Federation of Government Employees and the American Federation of State, County

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editorial



GRAPHIC: KEVIN RASHID JOHNSON

and Municipal Employees need to disaffiliate their units that represent cops and guards.

No support for prison guard strike!

We offer no solidarity whatsoever with the wildcat strike of prison guards which began Feb. 12 in New York State. Not only are the guards demanding more staffing, pay increases and higher overtime pay, but they are demanding repeal of the state's 2021 Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act. HALT limits the arbitrary, repressive use of solitary confinement against prisoners.

Nikko Colon, incarcerated at the Wyoming Correctional Facility, asked: "They're asking to repeal the whole bill? Would they like to repeal the scientific evidence [that it's] torture?" (The Marshall Project, Feb. 22)

Unlike the guards, incarcerated workers are part of the working class, often working for a small fraction of the minimum wage — which is already too low. When incarcerated workers revolt and take over all or part of a prison, as they did at New

York's Collins Correctional Facility right before the guard strike and most recently at Riverview Correctional Facility, we support them as much as we do any other legitimate labor struggle.

When the Attica Rebellion began in 1971 in New York state, Workers World wholeheartedly supported the prisoners, whose demands included recognition as workers and the right to form a union.

That's who's side we're on! □

MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD



La 'paz' de Trump es una mentira

Entrevista con un preso político ucraniano

Por Steve Gillis

Los siguientes son extractos de una entrevista en ruso realizada por el reportero del periódico Workers World Steve Gillis a Mijaíl Kononovich, preso político en Ucrania desde marzo de 2022 por oponerse a la guerra con Rusia. Él y su hermano Alexander -detenido por sus muchos años de acciones del «Komsomol [Liga de la Juventud Comunista] por la Paz»- viven actualmente bajo arresto domiciliario. Véase workers.org/2024/12/82775 para más antecedentes y workers.org/2025/02/83852 para la entrevista completa en inglés. Traducción al inglés: Steve Gillis.

Workers World: ¿Cómo han vivido los trabajadores de Ucrania las primeras semanas de la administración Trump?

Mijaíl Kononovich: ¡La «paz» de Trump es una mentira! No habrá paz en Ucrania, ni en un día, ni en un mes, ni en un año. La masacre continuará. ¡Trump es un oligarca, capitalista, nazi y carnicero!

¡La guerra es el motor de la economía capitalista! La guerra en Ucrania es un «Drang nach Osten» [Avance hacia el Este]. ¡Trump dice abiertamente que luchará por los minerales en Ucrania!

¿Qué está pasando ahora en la Franja de Gaza? ¿Hay paz allí? ¡No! Y a pesar del «alto el fuego» firmado entre Israel y Hamás, los palestinos siguen muriendo allí todos los días. La «paz» de Trump en Palestina es limpiar Gaza de palestinos, igual que el «Plan General del Este» de Hitler para limpiar los territorios de Europa del Este exterminando a todos los eslavos, que por cierto continúa ahora en Ucrania.

La guerra de hoy en Ucrania es sólo una continuación de la política de Hitler por parte del «ataque al Este» del Occidente imperialista colectivo. Ucrania, Moldavia y Bielorrusia han sido consideradas durante mucho tiempo como colonias occidentales, por lo que quieren arrastrarlas a la OTAN sabiendo que Rusia no lo permitirá y habrá guerra.

Según los clásicos del marxismo sobre el desarrollo de los imperios, un imperio debe expandirse constantemente o morir, así que el «imperio occidental» del llamado Occidente colectivo se está expandiendo mediante el mismo «Drang nach Osten» de la época nazi.

WW: A medida que la guerra por poderes de EE.UU. y la OTAN contra Rusia en Ucrania entra en su cuarto año, ¿cuál es la condición de las fuerzas contra la guerra dentro de Ucrania?

MK: El indicador más importante de la sociedad, de cómo viven la guerra los ucranianos, es la movilización forzosa al ejército. La gente es capturada como animales y enviada al frente. Todo Internet está lleno de miles de videos de movilización forzosa mediante el secuestro en la calle.

Todos aquellos que abogaron sistemáticamente por la paz incluso antes del estallido de la guerra a gran escala en Ucrania



Alexander y Mijaíl Kononovich

FOTO: PEOPLES DISPATCH

en 2022 están, como los comunistas y antifascistas ucranianos, en la cárcel, bajo arresto o en el exilio. Las fuerzas antibelicistas de Ucrania están reprimidas pero no derrotadas; seguimos luchando pase lo que pase.

WW: ¿Cuáles son las demandas más importantes que el movimiento antibelicista en Estados Unidos debería plantear a la administración Trump?

MK: Nosotros -como comunistas antifascistas ucranianos, como personas que han sido torturadas personalmente por el SBU [Servicio de Seguridad de Ucrania], encarceladas y maltratadas por el régimen- hacemos un llamamiento a nuestros camaradas estadounidenses para que exijan, en primer lugar, que la administración Trump declare inmediatamente una amnistía total para todos los presos políticos de Ucrania! ¡Miles de personas a favor de la paz están siendo sometidas diariamente a torturas y privaciones no humanas en el centro de Europa! ¡Esto debe parar inmediatamente!

Llamamos a los camaradas americanos, comunistas, izquierdistas, antifascistas a marchar a las embajadas y consulados ucranianos por todo Estados Unidos y Canadá para exigir el fin de la represión política en Ucrania y la liberación inmediata de los presos políticos de las cárceles.

¡Camaradas salgan y luchen por nosotros como nosotros lucharíamos por ustedes! □

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